

*Editor's note:* We sure received many comments on the Airman battle uniform poster in the Spring 2007 issue. We want to thank you for bringing up the creases on the uniform. Your concerns are our concerns. First of all, we took the photo at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service headquarters in Dallas, using their one and only — and brand new — uniform. However, the AAFES folks assured

me they didn't press the uniform. They took the uniform out of the package, put it on a mannequin and put it out for display. To further set the record straight, we called and talked to the chief of the Air Force Uniform and Recognition Programs Branch to ask about the creases. He said the uniform goes through a permanent-press treatment that gives the blouse sleeves and trouser legs permanent

creases. The same treatment makes the uniform wash and wear. The branch chief said that to keep the uniform looking sharp, just wash it in warm water with a detergent that doesn't contain optical brighteners or bleach. Make sure only to tumble dry the uniform at low heat and take it out and hang it. And never use starch or sizing, nor hot press or dry-clean the uniform because it deteriorates the cloth fiber, which damages its permanent press and near-infrared features.

**ABU has creases**

We just received the Spring 2007 issue of *Airman* magazine and I and several coworkers were wondering what the point is of a "wash and wear" uniform — which is not allowed to be dry cleaned — when the only picture of it (centerfold poster) shows it ironed and pressed. Pictures like this one provide the standard for the new uniform, and if none of them show the new Airman battle uniform as a true wash-and-wear uniform, it never will be.

The current battle dress uniform was also not supposed to be starched and pressed because it would lose its "camouflage integrity" — but now that is the standard. It is just God's good fortune that those in harm's way wear their issued "desert cammies" instead of their starched and pressed BDUs from home. No doubt they would be better targets during a night maneuver wearing their shiny, and pressed, uniforms.

*Staff Sgt. Richelle Stewart  
Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas*

I have to comment on the poster-size ABU photo (Spring 2007 issue). The "no-iron-needed" theory already seems to be messed up with the wonderful crease on the Airman's pants (in the photo). I hope this isn't the future of the new ABU.

*Master Sgt. Art Hoven  
Offutt AFB, Neb.*

I just saw the picture of the Airman battle uniform in your publication (Spring 2007). It shows the uniform pressed with creases. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't the ABU supposed to be wash and wear with no starching or

pressing? This picture will send the message that pressing the ABU is the accepted norm.

*Master Sgt. Frederick Leach  
Southwest Asia*

In the center of the Spring 2007 edition of *Airman*, it shows the Airman battle uniform. The picture shows it pressed and creased. At the bottom left of the page it describes "no ironing needed" and "dry cleaning not allowed." I've been told the uniform is not to be dry cleaned or pressed. I assumed that meant no ironing. I realize I may be assuming too much, but if you cannot press it, I believe the photo sets a bad precedent with the creased pant legs.

*Master Sgt. Dean Harris  
Charleston AFB, S.C.*

This is regarding the recent issue of *Airman* magazine and the centerfold of the new Airman battle uniform. This was a wonderful way to get a look at the new uniform to the Air Force community. However, I'm concerned that one of the most-prized things of wearing the new uniform is that there is no need to press it. But the picture in the magazine is in fact that of a pressed uniform. We've been told many times that the first person to press this uniform would be in trouble. So I'm wondering if you aren't sending a wrong message to our Airmen in the magazine about the presentation of this uniform.

*Staff Sgt. Mitzi Ebensteiner  
Luke AFB, Ariz.*

I just received the *Airman* (Spring 2007) issue and, as I pulled it out of the distribution box, the magazine opened up to the Airman battle uniform centerfold. The first thing I noticed was the crease in the pants. Of course you couldn't get this crease without ironing. It seems to me we set ourself up for failure when (the Air Force) releases information (no ironing or dry cleaning) and the first thing we publish to the masses is a photo of a pressed uniform. Next thing we'll see is someone trying to polish the boots. No matter what you do next, the standard has been set.

*Master Sgt. Chad Carter  
Barksdale AFB, La.*



**Spring 2007 cover photo**

We inadvertently left out the caption to our April issue cover photo. The caption should have been: Senior Airman Richard Rodriguez aims a machine gun toward an entry control point while on guard duty at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Airman Rodriguez is a 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron perimeter guard who deployed to the base from the 5th Security Forces Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Bradley A. Lail)

**Correction, again**

This is in reference to the comment in *Airmail* (Spring 2007 issue) titled "Correction." There are still 115 pararescuemen assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command's special tactics squadrons who are still responsible, in part, for combat search and rescue missions.

*Senior Master Sgt. Paul Koester  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.*

**Let us know**

Hey, is there a story you'd like to see in *Airman*? Then let us know.

*Airman* is always looking for good stories — like those that deal with key missions, heritage, keeping healthy, interesting people or events, milestones and anything that can convince us of highlighting.

Also, let us know what you like and don't like about *Airman* — like the Air Force, we are constantly changing to improve our mission.

Drop us a line at [editor@afnews.af.mil](mailto:editor@afnews.af.mil) with your ideas. And, if you'd like, give us a call at DSN 945-7757 or Commercial at (210) 925-775. We speak Air Force.

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**Editorial offices:** *Airman*, AFNEWS/PANA, 203 Norton St., San Antonio, TX 78226-1848. Telephone (210) 925-7757; DSN 945-7757, fax (210) 925-7219; DSN 945-7219. E-mail: [editor@afnews.af.mil](mailto:editor@afnews.af.mil)

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